No 658 April 21, 2002

SPRING FRESH!

THE FUNDAY TIMES

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Experience the chills and thrills of Chessington's New Vampire ride
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We discover the new art exhibition inspired by the Earth's weather
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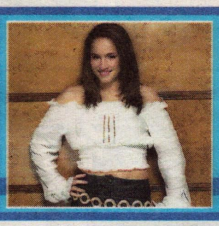

Euro challenge
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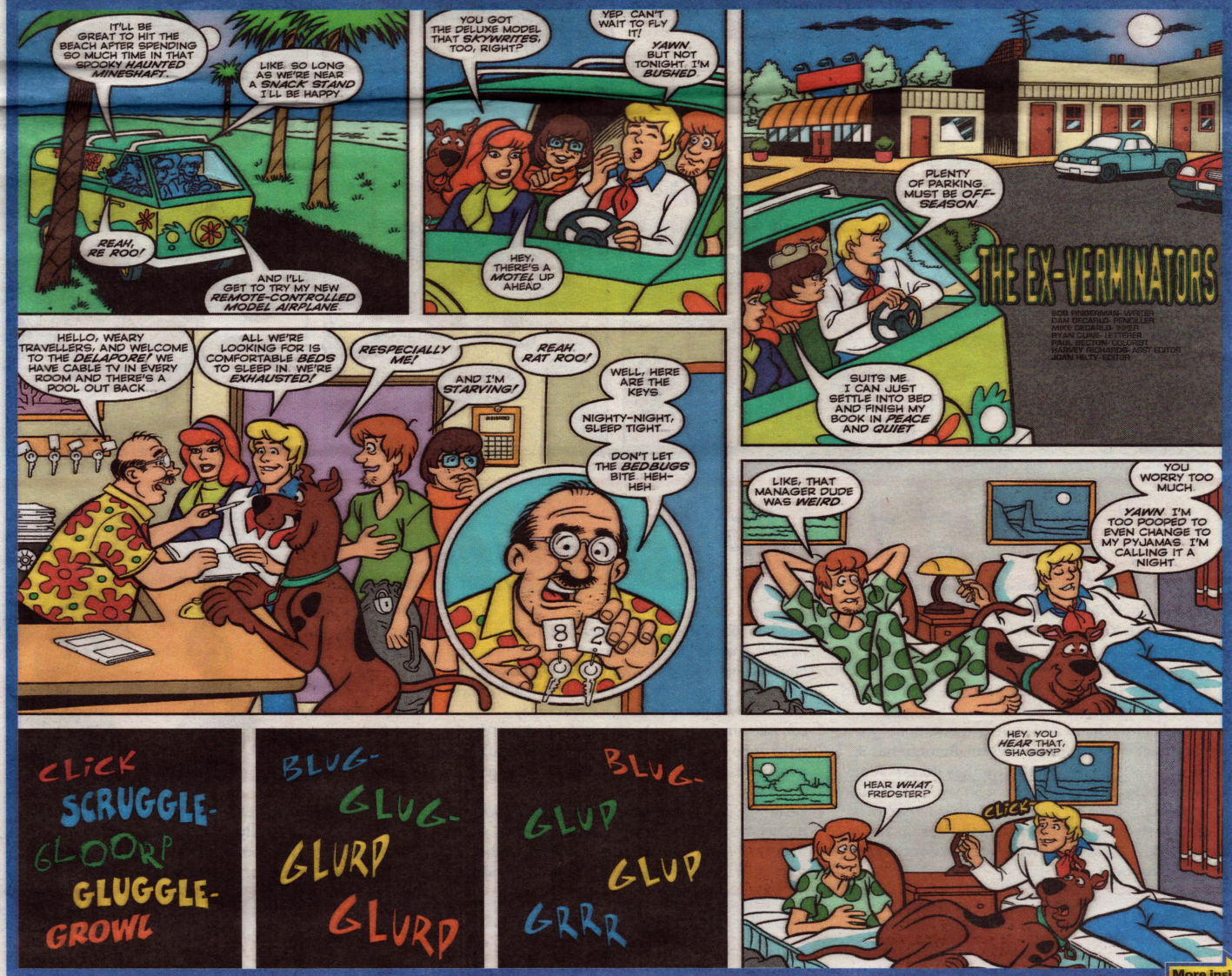
SCOOBY-DOO! in THE EX-VERMINATORS



More inside

SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA. (S02)

BELLEFIRE BANTER

It's Funday's final Bellefire column! This week, we chat to Kelly from the band

The new single, All I Want Is You, is a cover of a U2 song. Were you nervous about doing it?

I had loved the song for ages and we didn't intend for it to be a single, or for it to even be heard outside of the band and management. Bono got wind that we had done a version. Rumour has it, he was like: "Oh no, what have they done?" A girl band doing his song, he was a bit worried. So he ended up asking for a copy and we sent one over to him. He gave it the complete thumbs up, he really liked it. He loved what we had done with our voices on it.

Have you met Bono then?

Yes, last week. We never actually heard from Bono himself, that he liked our version, so when we saw him striding towards us at the Meteor Awards [the Irish equivalent of the Brits] we were like: "Oh no! What are we going to do?" He was really complimentary, though, and we had a big sigh of relief. If he didn't like it, I don't think we would have released it. I'm such a huge fan, Bono is my god!

What things remind you of home?

Yesterday we were driving around Norfolk and it was really green and pretty, with the sun shining. I started to get homesick because it reminded me of the scenery of where I come from. The sea reminds me of home, as well, as I live by the beach.

What's your bedroom like?

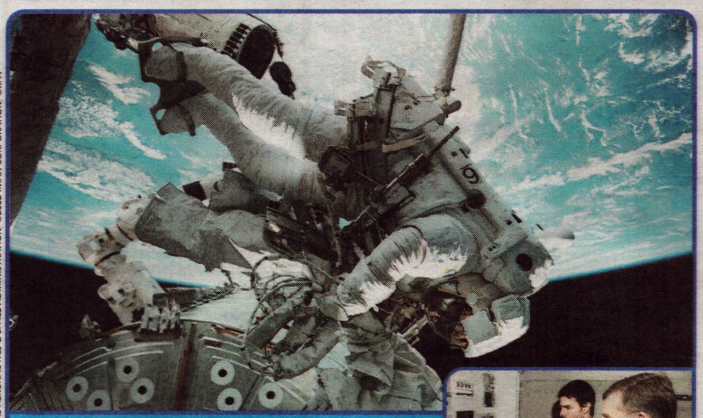
It's completely chaotic... insanity. I know exactly where things are, but you wouldn't think so by looking in. I like it that way. If it's too tidy and ordered, I don't feel relaxed. I have loads of candles and incense burners ... and loads of books. I have thousands of books.

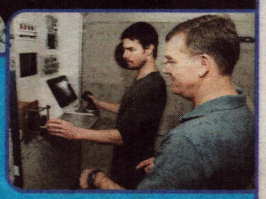
PICTURES: JAMIE MORGAN

Scooby and Shaggy are brave – when food is at stake!

FUNDAY

NEWS





Space Cruise

The world's first 3D film shot entirely in space is to get its European premiere at the Science Museum this week. The IMAX film, Space Station 3D, is narrated by Tom Cruise and features 25 astronauts and cosmonauts, from 16 nations, on their mission to construct the International Space Station. "The minute I saw the amazing 3D footage shot by astronauts in space, I knew I had to be involved with this special film," wannabe spaceman Tom Cruise [above] told us. The camera-trained space adventurers shot 21km of film during 337 days to document life on the International Space Station, which orbits the Earth at a super speedy 28,000kph! Space Station 3D opens on Friday at the Science Museum, and from Saturday at the bfi London IMAX Cinema. It will then blast off at Bradford's National Museum of Photography, Film and Television; Bristol IMAX and Millennium Point IMAX in Birmingham from May 10.

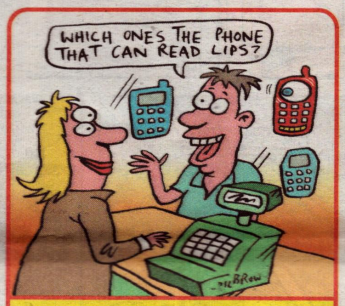
PICTURES PA/PETER J JORDAN ©2001 U.S. GOVERNMENT AS REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION ©2002 IMAX CORPORATION ©RPA

Wonderful World

A £182m ship, claimed to be the world's first ocean-going luxury resort, docked at Greenwich earlier this month. The World is 198m long, weighs 43,000 tonnes and has 110 luxury apartments, restaurants, shops, a golf centre with real grass, two swimming pools, and a medical centre with an operating theatre. About 25 millionaires already live on board in apartments which range from £1.4m to £5m in price and have marble bathrooms and private verandas! The World was the brainchild of Norwegian shipping billionaire Knut Closter Jr. "This is a new lifestyle – to travel the globe without leaving home," he said. On its first voyage the ship will take in 120 ports in 46 countries and will visit events including the Cannes Film Festival and the Monaco Grand Prix.

By George

This Tuesday – April 23 – is St George's Day. England's patron saint is believed to have been born in what is now Turkey in about AD280, and fought for the Roman army during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. St George was a brave and successful soldier, but when he refused to renounce Christianity, he was tortured and eventually beheaded in AD303. By the 14th century the legend of George slaying a dragon to save a princess became popular and his name became synonymous with devotion, courage and valour.



Lip service

Engineers at a Japanese phone manufacturer are working on a mobile that can read your lips! All users have to do is silently mouth the words into the handset. A sensor in the phone then converts the tiny electrical signals sent out by the moving muscles around the user's mouth into speach, text or e-mail! The company hopes to have the phones on the market within five years and believes that the silent invention will be particularly popular in Japan, where in many public places there is a ban on mobile phone use.

Blood chilling

Chessington World Of Adventures' new roller coaster, the New Vampire, has a height restriction of just 1.1m tall meaning that even fun-sized folk can get their teeth into it! Allowing smaller people on the New Vampire doesn't mean that it's boring, though – it reaches 53kph and inflicts forces equivalent to three times gravity on riders! The coaster's trains also swoop and soar over tree-tops along nearly a kilometre of track. The New Vampire features a stomach-churning 16m drop and it's the first ever ride which suspends and swings riders at the same time. For more info, click on www.chessington.com or call 0870 444 7777.

Barking quackers!

Meet Henry the duck – who thinks he's a rottweiler! The barmy billed one even follows his canine companion, Jaffa, when he goes for his walkies. For owner Michelle Van Craeyenest, from Leicestershire, the initial meeting of the two animal buddies was a nervy encounter. "I thought Jaffa might have gone for Henry – that's a natural instinct. But Jaffa just sniffed at him and that was that," she remembers. "Now wherever Jaffa goes, Henry goes too. I can't keep them apart – they even sleep in the same pen together!"

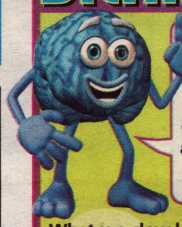
TOM AND JERRY SUPER CAT

The story so far – Tom's under the impression that he's got superhero powers. Although Jerry doesn't believe it!

TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. (S02)

Continues next week!

BRAINBOX



I'm Brainbox – the Funday boffin! Send in a puzzling question you want to know the answer to and see if my friends and I can answer it.

What is a slow loris?
Pippa Clarke, 9, Norwich

The slow loris belongs to the Lorisidae family, along with pottos and bush babies, and they are primates. Found in rain-forests across South East Asia, the tail-less slow loris is both arboreal [meaning tree-living] and nocturnal [meaning mainly active at night]. They vary in size and colour, ranging from brown to a pale grey and can weigh from 1kg to 1.8kg with a body length of up to 35cm. However, the pygmy slow loris is much smaller, weighing around 0.7kg. It's also much rarer, found only in

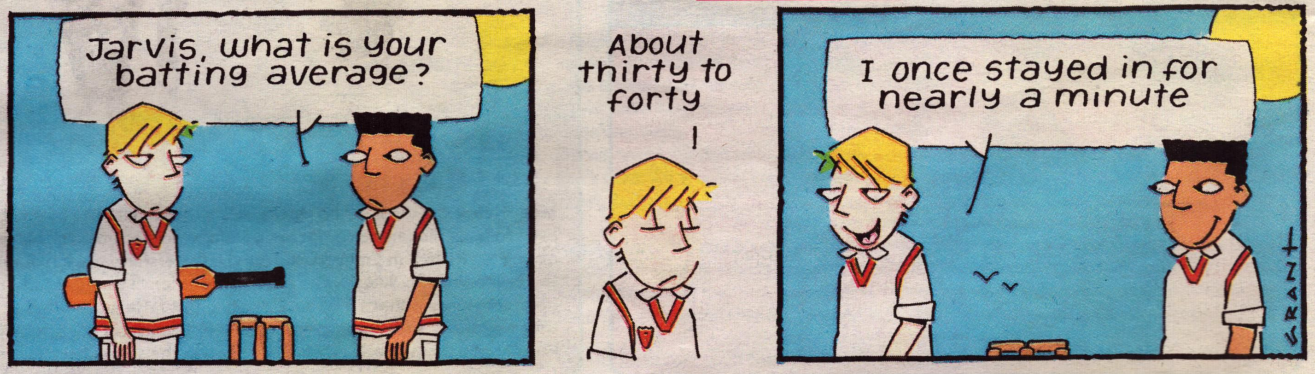
areas such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, where numbers are falling due to habitat destruction and the pet trade. Due to the slow loris's slow nocturnal nature, little is known about them but they have a good sense of smell and mainly eat insects and fruit. You can see a slow loris and pygmy slow loris at London Zoo's Moonlight World.

Answer by Mike Clark at London Zoo's Clore Pavilion www.londonzoo.co.uk

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

PICTURE ©KENNETH FINK/ARDEA LONDON

Jarvis



©KNIGHT FEATURES

FAYE'S NEXT STEP

Faye Tozer tells Anthony Crank why she's ditched her Steps dreadlocks and sparkly outfits in favour of a swanky new look and a slinky duet with opera star Russell Watson

Welcome back Faye! How did the Russell Watson duet come about?
It's all thanks to the BBC really, after they paired us up together for last year's CBBC Prom In The Park, in Hyde Park. There was a great atmosphere between us on stage. Russell is a really cheeky chappie and he would play up on stage – so I'd give it back, twice as much! It was a lovely, fun experience though, getting to sing Someone Like You with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. I felt ever so posh!

It was lucky that this opportunity came up, just as Steps was coming to an end.
Don't I know it! I knew that working with Russell would be a chance of a lifetime, and almost immediately after the gig I was whisked away to perform with Russ on the cruise ship, QE2. We visited paradise places such as Honolulu and Tahiti. It was very glam indeed. I borrowed lots of diamonds and pearls and dusted down my best cocktail frocks for the performances we did on the boat ... talk about living a life of luxury!

Is it strange performing without the rest of Steps?
It has been, as I really wasn't exactly sure what was around the corner for me once we had split. I don't feel like I'm completely on my own though, as Russell has been so supportive, telling me I'm going to make it.

Before your first release – there is already speculation in the press that you'll become a big solo star – how does it feel to read articles like that?
It's strange. I went away for a holiday when everything went doolally with Steps, so to come back and hear all that was really nice. I've decided to put my feet up for the time being, though, and really put my mind to what I'm going to do music-wise.

Can you tell us anything about the musical direction you're going to take?
I've got some great music that I've done with my fiancé, Jasper. And I have already met some top record company bigwigs to see about getting the best deal, so who knows? We're trying to keep a theme running through the music, and I want to do something that's totally original, so you'll have to wait and see.

What is it like tackling the business as a solo artist rather than as a group?
It's funny you should ask that, as only last night I was preparing to do some glam-shoot, and it dawned on me how much I miss the other guys. For a moment, I really felt like I needed them there with me to do it, especially so soon after we broke up. But then I realised that doing it alone is going to be so exciting!

Have you kept in touch with the other guys?
Lisa and Lee will always be around, and as for H and Claire, we've texted them. But we're all still adjusting to it really.

Have your fans stuck by you?
Like real troopers! I had loads of cards and flowers, all saying: "I hope Faye's okay – tell her we'll be there for her." It's just been lovely, and I promise to them that I'll definitely come back ... with a bang!

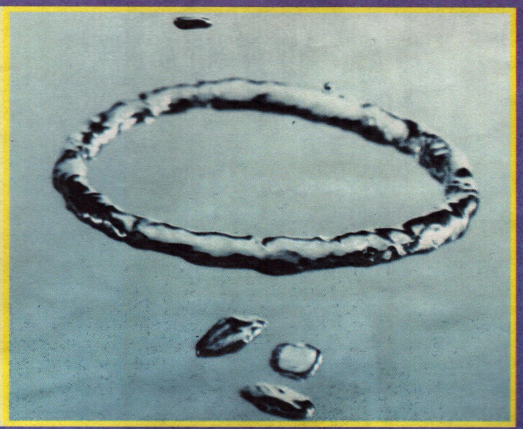
The single, Someone Like You, by Russell Watson and Faye Tozer, is released on May 13

Here's our guide to Faye's new singing chum, Russell Watson:
Hailing from Manchester, tenor Russell is a huge star in the world of opera and has sold millions of records worldwide with his albums The Voice and Encore. He's also a huge Manchester United fan – and performed before the 1999 Champions League final, in Barcelona, which United won!

PICTURES: ©DAVID VENNI/IDOLS, PA/ANDREW PARSONS, ©REX FEATURES

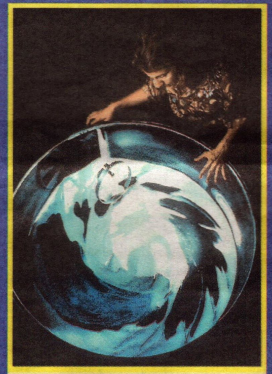
THE ART OF SCIENCE

The Natural History Museum's Turbulent Landscapes will blow you away. It's an interactive art-science exhibition, featuring work created by six American artists. Each exhibit is inspired by nature's wild movements [as seen in whirlpools, tornadoes, ocean waves and sand dune ripples] and the science behind them. Miranda Nugent unveils some of the dazzling displays

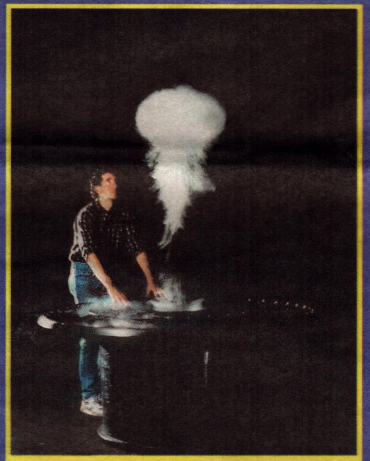


AIR RINGS
by Shawn Lani
This exhibit allows visitors to blow silver rings through a solution of water and glycerine. Squeezing an air pump determines how much air blows through a small hose and into the base of a liquid-filled tube. A burst of air at the right pressure and volume can create an awesome vortex ring.

CONVECTION CELLS
by Ned Kahn
A shallow, circular tray, covered with glass and filled with pearlescent fluid, is heated from below. Instead of becoming more disorderly, which most things do when they're heated, the fluid organises itself into a delicate pattern that looks a bit like a fingerprint.



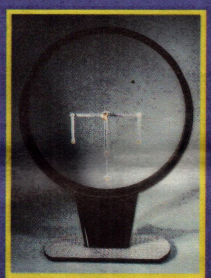
AEOLIAN LANDSCAPE
by Ned Kahn
Ned Khan is the exhibition's principal artist. Aeolian means windborne and this piece recreates a miniature windswept desert landscape by blowing an electric fan over finely ground sand. You can change the direction of the fan and see how the shape of the mini dunes influences the wind pattern which, in turn, affects the shape of the dunes.



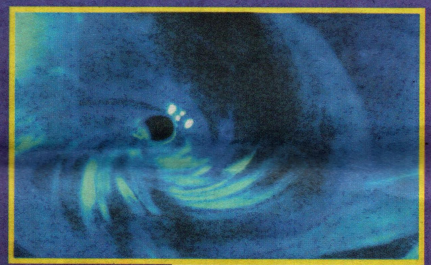
CLOUD RINGS by Ned Kahn
This stunning exhibit uses a mist generator and a large rubber membrane with a hole in the middle to launch ghost-like rings of vapour up to the ceiling. The rings are created by the friction between the hole's edge and the vapour flowing through it, which form amazing, swirling patterns.

A SINGLE DROP by Michael Brown
This suspended reflecting pool was inspired by a trip to the Redwood Forest in Northern California, where Michael became mesmerised by drops of water falling from a tree into water. Visitors sit below a suspended water-filled Perspex dish and gaze up to see patterns and ripples created by falling water droplets.

SPRING BOX by Shawn Lani
A stream of water is pumped up through a bed of sand into this large glass cylinder, which is filled with water and tiny glass beads. The water erupts through the sand and meanders around, never settling in one place. The piece was inspired by the springs on Shawn's family ranch in Spring Valley, Nevada, and was made using materials from the area.



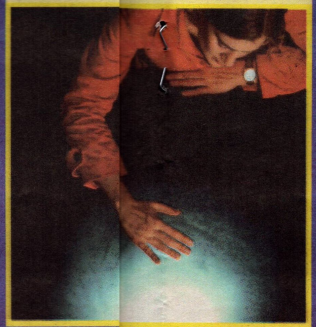
CHAOTIC PENDULUM by Ned Kahn
This curious display is about irregular and chaotic movement. It contains a simple set of pendulums in a steel and Perspex case. Visitors set the pendulums in motion by twisting a knob and although it's easy to assume the resulting motion will be simple – it's not! The motion is chaotic and complicated ... and long-lived.



BLUE WHIRLPOOL by Ned Kahn
Blue Whirlpool will have observers transfixed. A jet of water flowing into a pool creates myriad small whirlpools that interact with each other. The effect makes compelling viewing. Vortices [a vortex is a whirling mass of water or air] that spin in the same direction attract each other and sometimes join to form larger whirlpools.

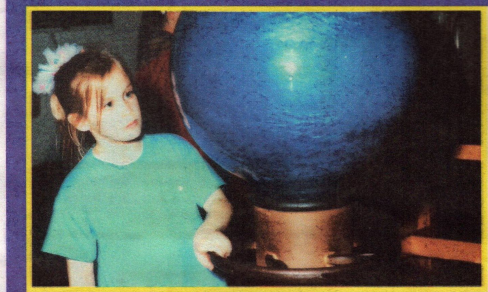
TORNADO by Ned Kahn
Get ready for a dramatic display as a tornado is created right before your eyes! Fans and a mist generator, in a carefully shaped structure, are used to create a lively miniature version of one of nature's most brutal weather phenomena.

INFALLING CLOUDS by Ned Kahn
A deep, black cylinder is continuously filled with a thick mist generated by an ultrasonic humidifier [a device for producing visible cool moisture]. The upper surface of the mist forms a clear boundary with the surrounding air, and the unstable surface teems with waves and convection patterns.



CIRCLING WAVE UMBRELLA by Ned Kahn
Wind is one of the world's natural forces that creates waves. The ingenious umbrella is made from a spinning piece of red fabric that undulates to create ripple and wave patterns. The shape of the waves is influenced by the surrounding air currents – and visitors can change the waves by altering the speed the umbrella rotates.

VORTEX
by Doug Hollis
This display is stunning to look at, and it demonstrates a natural shape that can be seen in various places, from snail shells to whirlpools and galaxies. The vortex is created by pumping water from the bottom of a cylinder, then injecting it back in the top, setting the water spinning. An amazing funnel shape occurs.

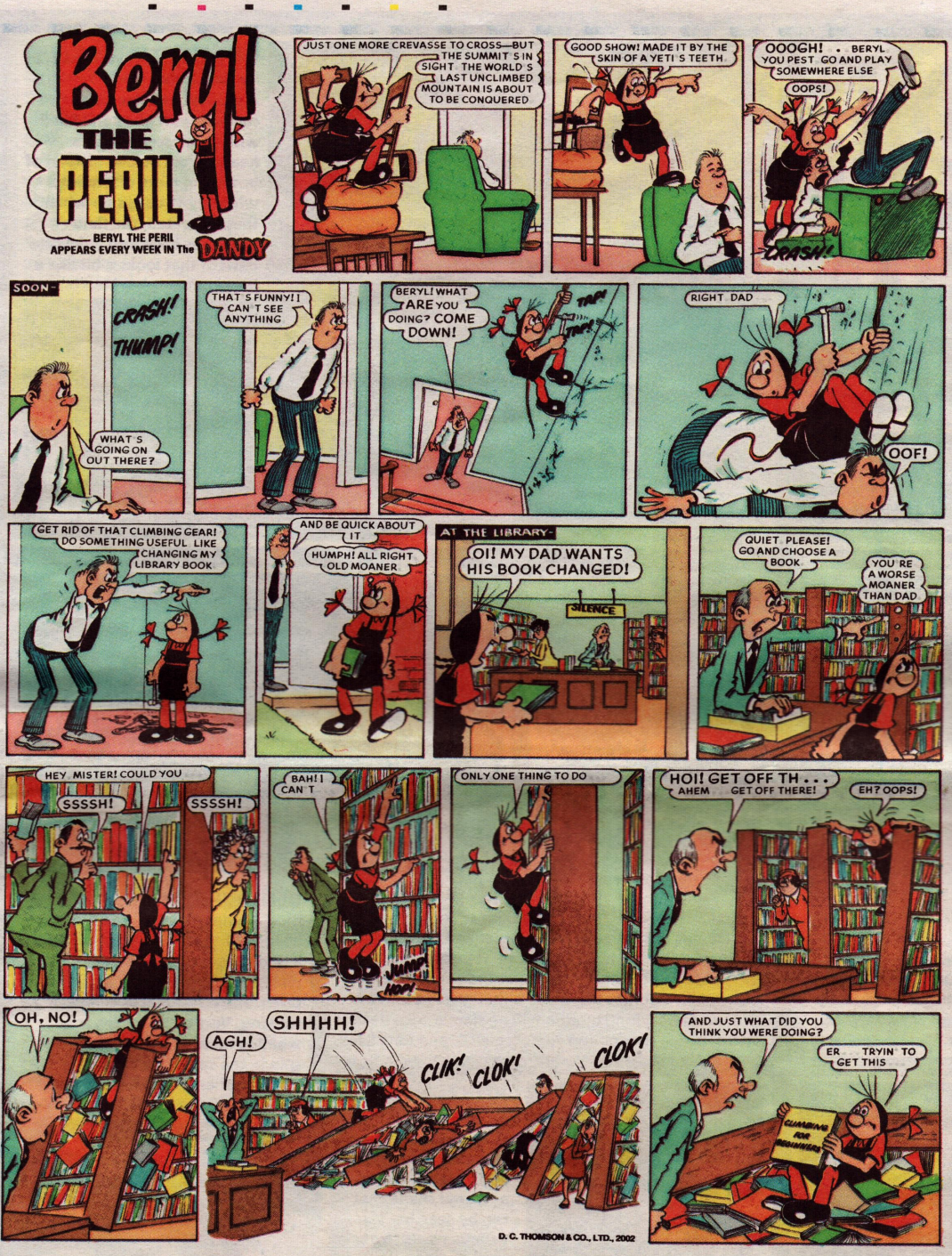


TURBULENT ORB
by Ned Kahn
This large polycarbonate sphere is full of a special, coloured fluid. The eye-catching globe can be spun in two directions and at different speeds. The fluid displays swirls and waves of internal movement, created by the spinning of the sphere – and highlighting the intricacies of fluid in motion.

Turbulent Landscapes runs at the Natural History Museum, London, until September 15, 2002. For more info, click on www.nhm.ac.uk or call 020 7942 5000

THE FUNDAY TIMES

PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDY SILVER © THE EXPLORATORIUM



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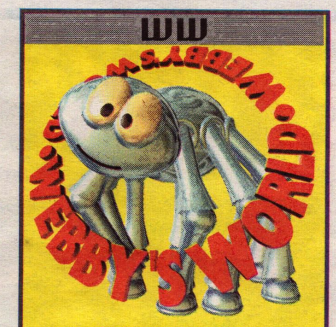
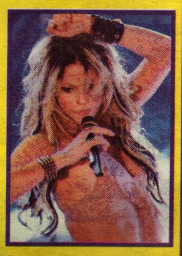


www.shakira.com

Ellie Martin, from Teignmouth, is a big fan of Colombian singing sensation Shakira and wants other readers to check out her official website. The intro is slightly bizarre [a washing machine appears, spinning into action] until you remember Shakira's album's called Laundry Service. Geddit!



PICTURE: AP/ANDREW MEDICHINI

www.thereandbackagain.net

J R R Tolkien's Lord Of The Rings may be in vogue at the moment but the books have attracted admirers for decades. Funday reader Ana Jejina gives this fan site the thumbs up. "It has info on nearly every character from the books and loads of links to other good LOTR websites."

See LOTR beyond the film

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

PARAPPA THE RAPPER 2

Parappa the Rapper is something of a cult star on the PlayStation. Dog-like Parappa lives in a colourful and wacky world where everyone challenges him to a series of rapping contests. This means getting nifty with your pad buttons as the raps get more elaborate and the beat gets quicker. Parappa's world is brilliantly animated but it's the sheer playability that makes it a hit. An original game that is bags of fun and which doesn't take itself too seriously. Can you keep up?

PLAYSTATION 2

TROPICANA ICE LOLLIES

Get juicy with these cool tasty treats for the summer. The delicious Tropicana Orange 'n' Cream lolly is the perfect weekend treat. Naughty but nice, it's a yummy combination of vanilla ice-cream with a tangy Tropicana juice infusion coated in orange ice lolly. The refreshing Premium Juice Lolly is just as delicious but, as it's made with pure Tropicana orange juice, it's 100% healthy. Warning: eat one and you'll want another!

COOL

WALKERS MINI MERLIN PREMIER LEAGUE STICKER COLLECTION

Walkers has teamed up with Merlin to create the Walkers Mini Merlin Premier League Sticker Collection. Dip into special packs of Quavers, Monster Munch, French Fries, 3Ds, Squares, Footballs and Cheetos and bag three footie star stickers. There are 80 to collect and Gary Lineker has hand-picked each one – and yes, Becks is among them. The stickers are a bit on the small side but footy fans will enjoy collecting them – and scoffing the crisps!

SNACK

Crash, bang, wallop! Beryl's in trouble once again!

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

SING WHEN YOU'RE WINNING!

Pop Idol's Jessica Garlick tells Buzz! about being chosen to perform the ballad, Come Back, at this year's Eurovision Song Contest

Were you a fan of the Eurovision Song Contest as a kid?

Yes, I've always watched it and to sing on it has always been an ambition of mine. I can't believe I'm going to fulfil that dream! I can't quite believe it. I sit back sometimes and think: "I'm the luckiest person in the world!"

What do you think of your Eurovision song, Come Back?

I fell in love with it straight away and it really suits my voice. It's a ballad, so not your typical Eurovision thing.

What do your family and friends think of you representing the United Kingdom?

They're really pleased for me. I don't think they could be more supportive.

Are you pleased you went on Pop Idol?

Absolutely. The success everyone has had from it proves what a great show it was. I was asked to try out for the Eurovision Song Contest just two-and-a-half hours after being voted off.

Are you a bit jealous of Will and Gareth's success?

Absolutely not! I'm delighted they're doing so well – they deserve their success. Of course, I'd love a number one. I've just got to work really hard to try and get there.

How has Pop Idol changed things for you?

Well I'm not living at home in Herefordshire any more and I don't get to do my everyday things. I've been so busy. People know who I am too, and I find that really strange.

Have you enjoyed performing on the Pop Idol concert tour?

Performing in front of so many people is amazing. I don't get nervous I just get really excited. As far as I'm concerned, the more people the better. It's the ultimate experience being cheered by so many people and it's been great to see all the other Pop Idol finalists again.

Where is the Eurovision Song Contest being held?

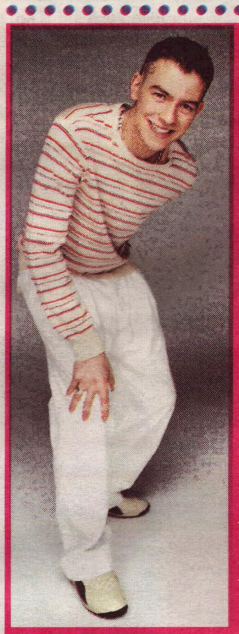
In Estonia. I've never been abroad, so it's an unusual place to start off with! My boyfriend saw a TV programme on Estonia and said it looked really nice and I've heard loads of good things about it. It'll be an amazing experience. There are 30 of us travelling, including Terry Wogan and five backing singers.

Do you think you've got a chance of winning?

Well, Ireland isn't taking part this year – so maybe! They can't afford to host any more contests quite yet – the winner gets to host the following year's contest and they just kept on winning for a while.

Are you nervous about ending up with "null points"?

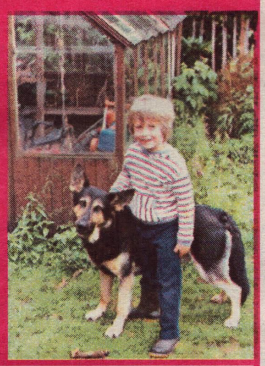
Not at all! Singing for the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest is the most exciting thing I've ever done and it's amazing to think that I'll be watched by 200 million people on TV.



BACK WHEN ... I WAS FIRST ON STAGE

Ashley from allSTARS remembers his early performances

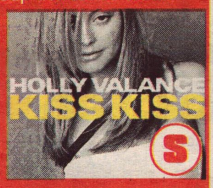
The first time I was on stage was in a school nativity play. I was a penguin and an Oompa-Loompa, so as you can tell, it was a slightly mad production. I really enjoyed it and I wanted to do more straight away. I think I had one line in that play and it was never enough. I then joined a local theatre group after watching them perform and really enjoying it. Learning lines was a bit tricky and getting up and singing for the first time can be hard, but I always loved it and just wanted to do more. I was in Jesus Christ Superstar and I played the Artful Dodger in Oliver! That was a great part, doing the cockney accent. During one of our plays I remember a mate of mine fainted on stage which was very funny. We just dragged him off and carried on, and everyone thought it was part of the play. Eventually I auditioned for the National Youth Theatre and got into that when I was 15, which meant moving to London for two weeks. Liza Tarbuck was our teacher and she was very funny. But this was before she was famous, we just knew her as a friend and a teacher. It was great.



allSTARS' new single, Back When, is out on April 29

KISS KISS Holly Valance ★★★★★

Neighbours' Holly Valance is making that treacherous move from soap actress to would-be pop star. But, judging by this fantastic first track, Holly shouldn't have too much trouble making a success of her new career. In fact, Kiss Kiss, which is a single packed with Eastern promise and instantly appealing melodies, looks like it should see Holly landing safely at the very top of the charts shortly!

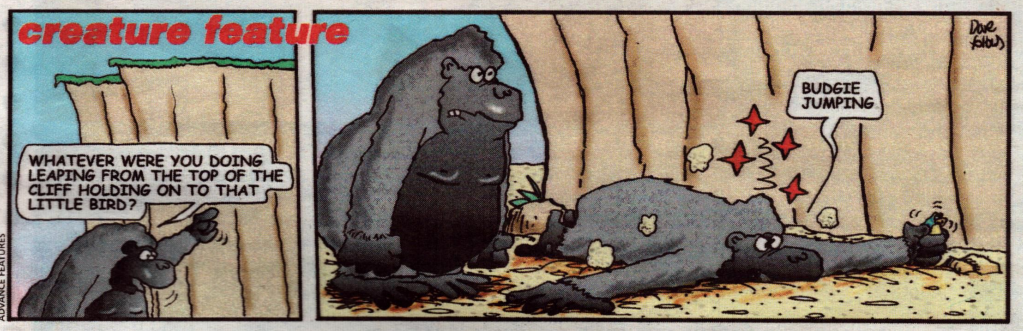


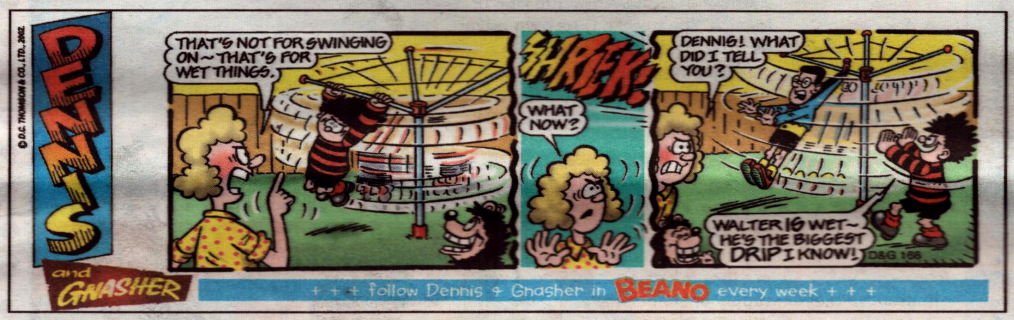
SPIDER-MAN on GMTV ★★★★☆

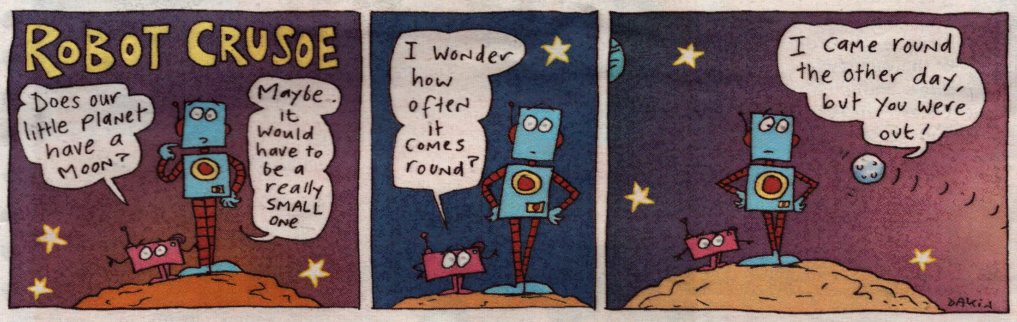
This summer's going to see everything going spider-crazy, with the release of the long awaited Spider-Man movie. But before that, you can swing into action and give yourself a webby treat with the original animated Spider-Man TV series on Sundays, at 8.10am, on GMTV. The series follows Peter Parker's adventures after he's bitten by a radioactive spider and develops super-hero powers. It's classic cartoon stuff – don't miss it!

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS Mad Donna ★★★★☆

This strange song and its accompanying video have been knocking around on the internet for months. But if you haven't seen or heard it yet, it's a re-working of Madonna's Ray Of Light single, transformed into the The Wheels On The Bus nursery rhyme. It might sound bizarre, but it actually works out really well. The sound-alike Madonna vocals are spot on, so much so that there were initially rumours that the queen of pop was secretly behind this track. It's an early summer gimmick track that's got everyone talking!







NEXT WEEK

Funday's even better now it's Spring Fresher!

Find out about the fantastic Future Forests campaign and how you can take part

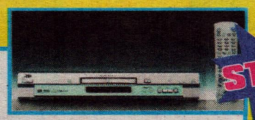
Get ready for our big FA Cup final preview

Win a fantastic trip to Florida or the cool new Xbox gaming console

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

DUNDEE RETURNS



Mick Dundee, the much-loved Outback crocodile hunter is back. Crocodile Dundee In Los Angeles is available to rent on video and DVD now – and to buy from April 22. Mick is enjoying life as a crocodile wrestler in Walkabout Creek, with his partner Sue and his nine-year-old son Mikey. But when Sue gets temporarily assigned to LA – things begin to get out of hand!

Universal is giving the writer of the star f-mail a JVC DVD player and a copy of the movie. The other f-mailers will get a copy of the film on video.

JVC

Luke King, 9, Liverpool

Dear f-mail,
I was very shocked about the Queen Mother's death. I think she was a truly remarkable woman and her death has caused a lot of sorrow and misery. There should be a statue or a special day to help remind us of her brilliance. It must be a very traumatising time for the Queen, as she has lost her sister [Princess Margaret] and her mother in her golden jubilee year. I hope the Queen Mother will always be remembered.
Thomas Cooper-Cocks, 11, Warwick

Dear f-mail,
This is a picture of my bass guitar. I started playing about a year ago in the summer. I have lessons every Sunday and I have learnt some good songs. I like to play songs by Blink-182 and other bands. I hope to become good at my guitar in the future and get in a band.
Alex Knowles, 12, Guildford

For cool cartoon fun, catch the Funday four every week on page 10!

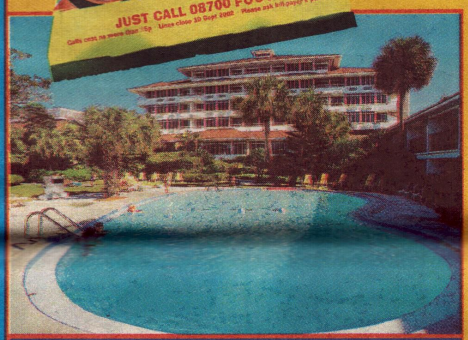
FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. **Competition deadline: May 1**

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

GOALDEN SANDS



Soccer-mad Geordies Ant and Dec have gone football crazy, just in time for the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea, which kicks off on May 31. They have swapped Pop Idol for "pack idol" by helping to launch Golden Wonder's new promotion, Goalden Shootout. Photos of the cheeky chums will decorate more than 100m promotional packs of Golden Wonder snacks, including Wotsits, Wotsits Wafflers, new Wotsits Goalden Balls and Nik Naks. Plus, each Goalden Shootout packet gives you the opportunity to win one or more of thousands of prizes, including widescreen TVs and PlayStation 2s. To increase your chances of winning, start munching now!

To celebrate the footy-themed promotion, Funday has teamed up with Golden Wonder to offer one lucky reader and their family [two adults and two children] a fantastic one-week dream holiday to sunny Florida in America, with JMC Holidays Ltd.

The prize holiday includes flights and accommodation to Clearwater Beach, an island separating Clearwater Harbour in Florida from the Gulf of Mexico. The hotel has its own private beach, tropical gardens and air conditioning in every room.

JMC will provide a hire car for your parents to take you on some wicked trips! Persuade them to take you to Orlando, which is only two hours away, or to the magical Walt Disney World Resort.

Plus, the winner and five runners-up will each receive a signed photograph of Ant and Dec, a year's supply of snacks, including Cheesy Wotsits, Wotsits Wafflers, new Wotsits Goalden Balls and Nik Naks, a Subbuteo game and a football.

To enter, tell us who manages Newcastle United.

Mark your entry BARMY ARMY and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

PLAY GOALDEN SHOOTOUT ANT & DEC

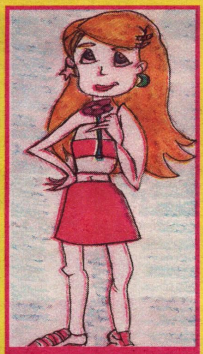
GOLDEN WONDER

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Dear f-mail,
Britney Spears was very rude when loads of fans came just to see her at the premiere of Crossroads and she turned her back on them. I really feel for those poor people who came from South Africa to see her.
I think she needs to learn manners – and get more boos!
Grace Hills, 8, Glastonbury

Matthew Pike, 11, Totnes

Dear f-mail,
It puzzles me that scientists need to know why things happen. What business do we have knowing why flowers grow and why the sky is blue? Is it not possible for us to get on with our lives without knowing everything? Every day, people do pointless experiments that we didn't need to know the answer to. Why can't we just leave what we have left of our precious world alone?
Catherine Porter, 12, Endmoor



Laura Bailey, 12, Upton

Patient: Doctor, doctor, you have to help me out!
Doctor: Certainly – which way did you come in?

Scout one: This match won't light!
Scout two: That's funny, it did this morning!
Nick Robinson, 12, Keighley

Did you hear about the man who fell into a barrel of toffee?
He came to a sticky end!

Customer: What do you call this dish?
Waiter: That's bean soup, ma'am.
Customer: I don't care what it's been. What is it now?
Amy Petherbridge, Swords

Got a cool joke? Then share it with f-mail!

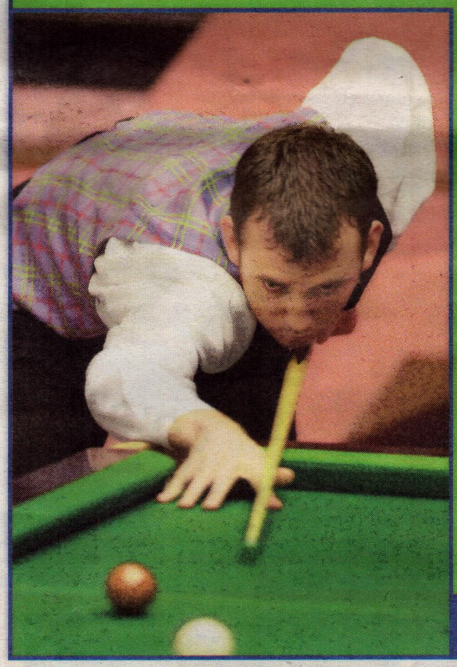
FUNDAY SPORT

MARK WILLIAMS

The world snooker championships are under way at the Crucible in Sheffield. World number one Mark Williams begins his quest for a second world crown with his first round match against John Parrott on Tuesday. Funday profiles the exciting 27-year-old potter from Wales

● Welshman Mark, from Ebbw Vale, in Gwent, was a promising amateur boxer before deciding to turn professional as a snooker player in 1992. He has since won 12 world-ranking tournaments – putting him fourth in the all-time list behind Stephen Hendry [33], Steve Davis [28] and John Higgins [15].

● Last month, Mark won his first tournament for 17 months with a 9-8 victory in the final of the China Open. He also won the next big event, the Thailand Masters. "I was looking forward to the world championships even before this, but now I can't wait to get to the Crucible," said Mark after his Thailand triumph. "I'm feeling relaxed about things. I got a monkey off my back in China after nearly two years without doing anything." During his title-less streak, the 27-year-old lost five finals and seven semi-finals!



● The Crucible is a good venue for Mark. His record of 18 matches, 14 wins and four losses is second only to his good buddy, Stephen Hendry. When Mark first became world number one, he immediately phoned his Scottish snooker pal to jokingly boast of his new position!

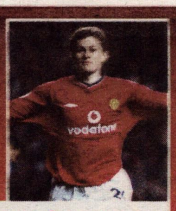
● Mark's greatest moment at the famous snooker venue was becoming the first left-handed world champion in 2000 – beating fellow Welshman Matthew Stevens 18-16 in the final. "This means everything to me," said Mark after his victory. "I have dreamt about this moment since I was a kid. Even if I had lost I couldn't have grumbled because I was guaranteed the number one spot. I didn't want to be too greedy but to do both is really scary."

● Mark is renowned for his cheeky sense of humour and laidback approach to his sport. "I always try to give my best. If I win, fine. If I lose, then I try and take it like a man. There are worse things happening in the world than me winning or losing."

Watch live coverage of the world snooker championships on BBC2

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

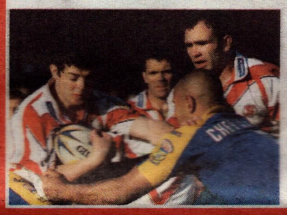


Wednesday Champions League semi-final, first leg, Manchester United v Bayer Leverkusen

Anyone would think that Manchester United were a one-man team following the Becks injury hysteria. But with this season's Champions League top scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy, Ryan Giggs, and quarter-final goal-scoring hero Ole Gunnar Solskjaer all in form, they are far from it. See the match live on ITV1 from 7.30pm.

Saturday Challenge Cup final, St Helens v Wigan, Murrayfield

Holders St Helens looked in all-conquering mood with an eight-try blitz against Leeds in the semi-final, while Wigan looked less convincing against their semi-final opponents, Castleford. However, with local pride at stake and a cup atmosphere, it could be a classic – and close – final. Catch it live on Grandstand, on BBC1, from 1pm.

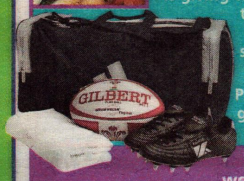


TRY TO WIN

The Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Challenge Cup is rugby league's annual knockout cup, which first took place more than 100 years ago in 1897. This year's final goes ahead next Saturday at Murrayfield.

The cup's sponsor, Kellogg's Nutri-Grain is giving two winners a full rugby strip, top-of-the-range rugby boots, kit bag, rugby ball, towel, sweatshirt and a year's supply of Kellogg's Nutri-Grain bars.

Plus, three runners-up will each get a year's supply of Kellogg's Nutri-Grain bars.



To enter, tell us which team won last year's Challenge Cup.

Mark your entry CHALLENGE and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

Kellogg's Nutri-Grain

PICTURES: PA/HAYDN WEST/NICK POTTS/DAVE KENDALL, REUTERS/IAN HODGSON

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